

~~**CONFIDENTIAL**~~

28 September 1955

**FBIS**

**TEXT OF:** PREMIER JAMAL ABD AL-NASIR AT ARMED FORCES  
EXHIBITION

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CAIRO HOME SERVICE 1945 9/27

(SPEECH OF PREMIER JAMAL ABD AL-NASIR AT ARMED FORCES EXHIBITION)

(EXCERPTS) WE HAVE PROCLAIMED THE POLICY OF EGYPT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. WE DECLARED THAT EGYPT, WHICH REVOLTED ON JULY 23, SHALL INTREPIDLY MARCH FORWARD TOWARD HER INDEPENDENT POLICY NOW THAT SHE HAS RID HERSELF OF IMPERIALISM, DESPOTISM, AND FOREIGN INFLUENCE. THESE WERE OUR HOPES. THESE WERE YOUR HOPES, AND WE HAVE DONE OUR UTMOST TO SAFEGUARD THESE HOPES. WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO SAFEGUARD THESE OBJECTIVES, AND WE ENCOUNTERED MANY AND GREAT DIFFICULTIES.

YOU KNOW THAT HEAVY WEAPONS ARE CONTROLLED BY THE BIG POWERS. YOU KNOW THAT THE BIG POWERS NEVER AGREED TO SUPPLY THE ARMY WITH HEAVY WEAPONS EXCEPT UNDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS. YOU KNOW THAT WE REJECTED THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, BECAUSE WE COVET TRUE FREEDOM AND A STRONG INDEPENDENT POLICY IN ORDER TO CREATE FOR EGYPT A NEW INDEPENDENT STATUS--AN EGYPT WHICH HAS INDEED ELIMINATED IMPERIALISM, OCCUPATION, AND FOREIGN DOMINATION IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING THIS COURSE AND TODAY WE HEAR A CLAMOR FROM LONDON AND WASHINGTON ABOUT THE ARMING OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

THROUGHOUT THE PAST THREE YEARS WE HAVE TRIED BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS TO SUPPLY THE ARMY WITH HEAVY WEAPONS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF AGGRESSION OR WAR, BUT FOR DEFENSE, SECURITY, AND PEACE. WE WANTED TO STRENGTHEN OUR ARMY SO AS TO SAFEGUARD OURSELVES, OUR NATION, AND OUR ARABISM. WE WANTED TO EQUIP OUR ARMY IN ORDER TO HAVE CONSTANT SECURITY, PEACE, AND TRANQUILITY. WE NEVER MEANT TO STRENGTHEN THIS ARMY FOR THE PURPOSE OF AGGRESSION OR FOR WAR. THE ARMY, WHICH IS THE GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR OF THIS HOMELAND IS ALWAYS ON THE ALERT TO DEFEND THE BORDERS AND THE HONOR OF THE HOMELAND. THIS IS OUR AIM AND OBJECTIVE.

TODAY I HEAR A CLAMOR HERE AND A CLAMOR THERE WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN FOR THE ARMY, WITHOUT CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS, THE WEAPONS IT REQUIRES IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE REVOLUTION'S OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A STRONG NATIONAL ARMY, WHICH WILL PROTECT THE TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF EGYPT.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTION, WE APPEALED TO ALL NATIONS AND IN EVERY DIRECTION FOR THE SAKE OF ARMING THIS ARMY. WE TURNED TO BRITAIN, TO FRANCE, TO AMERICA, AND TO THE OTHER REMAINING NATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ARMING THE ARMY

AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PEACE AND DEFENSE. WHAT DID WE RECEIVE? WE RECEIVED ONLY DEMANDS. THEY WANTED US TO ARM THE ARMY AFTER SIGNING A CONTRACT (ARABIC: WATHIQAH) OR AFTER SIGNING PACTS. WE DECLARED THAT WHILE WE WANTED AND WERE RESOLVED TO ARM OUR ARMY, WE WOULD NEVER SIGN A CONTRACT BUT WOULD ARM FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FREEDOM, OUR INDEPENDENT STATUS, AND REVOLUTION, THE PRESTIGE OF OUR HOMELAND, AND THE DIGNITY OF EGYPT.

WE ASKED FOR WEAPONS BUT WHAT WAS THE RESULT? THE RESULT IS A LONG BITTER STORY. WE SOMETIMES HUMBLLED OURSELVES, BUT WE NEVER ABANDONED OUR PRINCIPLES. WE ASKED AND BEGGED FOR WEAPONS, BUT WE WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY RESOLVED TO PRESERVE OUR PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS. WHAT WAS THE RESULT? WE WERE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE GREAT OBJECTIVE OF THIS REVOLUTION, NAMELY TO FORM A STRONG NATIONAL ARMY.

FRANCE ALWAYS HAGGLED WITH US ABOUT NORTH AFRICA AND TOLD US: WE WILL GIVE YOU WEAPONS ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU DO NOT CRITICIZE OUR POSITION IN NORTH AFRICA AND THAT YOU ABANDON YOUR ARAB NATURE, THAT IS, ON CONDITION THAT WE ABANDON OUR HUMANITARISM AND IGNORE THE BUTCHERY IN NORTH AFRICA.

NOW I SHALL TELL YOU THE STORY OF AMERICA. EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTION, WE HAVE ASKED FOR WEAPONS AND RECEIVED PROMISES. WHAT WAS THE RESULT? THE PROMISES AND CONDITIONS ATTACHED. WE COULD RECEIVE ARMS BY SIGNING A MUTUAL SECURITY PACT! WE COULD GET ARMS BY SIGNING SOME ALLIANCE! WE REFUSED TO SIGN A MUTUAL SECURITY PACT OR ANY ALLIANCE AND THEREFORE COULD NOT OBTAIN ANY WEAPONS FROM AMERICA.

WHAT WAS THE STORY OF BRITAIN? BRITAIN TOLD US SHE WAS GETTING READY TO SUPPLY US WITH WEAPONS. WE TOLD HER THAT WE ACCEPTED THIS THANKFULLY, BUT WHAT WAS THE RESULT? BRITAIN SUPPLIED US WITH QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS WHICH DID NOT FULFILL THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR REVOLUTION.

WHAT WAS THE RESULT? THE ENEMY ARMY WAS BEING SUPPLIED WITH ARMS FROM SEVERAL NATIONS. THE ARMY OF ISRAEL RECEIVED WEAPONS FROM BRITAIN, FRANCE, BELGIUM, CANADA, ITALY, AND SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS. WE USED TO READ IN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS--ENGLISH, AMERICAN, OR FRENCH--THAT THE ARMY OF ISRAEL COULD DEFEAT THE COMBINED ARAB ARMIES.

WHEN WE SAY THIS, WHEN WE SAW THIS ARBITRARY DECISION, WHEN WE SAY THIS ARBITRARY INFLUENCE, WE DECIDED TO ASK ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO SUPPLY US WITH WEAPONS UNCONDITIONALLY. I MADE THIS REQUEST WHILE EMPHASIZING TO THEM THAT THESE WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE USED FOR AGGRESSION BUT FOR DEFENSE. I EXPRESSED THIS IN THE NAME OF EGYPT TO AMERICA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, RUSSIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND OTHER NATIONS, AND AWAITED THEIR REPLIES. WHAT WAS THE RESULT?

I RECEIVED REPLIES FROM SOME OF THESE NATIONS, STATING THAT THEY COULD SUPPLY THE ARMY WITH WEAPONS BUT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. I REJECTED THESE CONDITIONS (BECAUSE THESE WERE AGAINST OUR PRINCIPLES). I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT WE MAY ASK AND BEG FOR ARMS, AND MAY HUMBLE OURSELVES FOR ARMS, BUT WE SHALL NEVER ABANDON OUR PRINCIPLES. WE WAITED. WHEN WE RECEIVED A REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DECLARING ITS READINESS TO SUPPLY US WITH WEAPONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY AND ON A PURELY COMMERCIAL BASIS, AND STATING THAT THIS TRANSACTION WOULD BE LIKE ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, WE IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED THIS OFFER.

LAST WEEK EGYPT SIGNED A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLYING US WITH WEAPONS. THIS AGREEMENT PERMITS EGYPT TO PAY THE PRICE IN EGYPTIAN PRODUCTS SUCH AS COTTON AND RICE. WE THANKFULLY ACCEPTED THIS OFFER, AND BY THIS WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS REVOLUTION, NAMELY THE CREATION OF A STRONG NATIONAL ARMY.

AS I TALK TO YOU TODAY, I HEAR A CLAMOR HERE AND THERE. THERE WAS A CLAMOR IN LONDON AND IN WASHINGTON FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ARBITRARY CONTROL AND INFLUENCE. WE SHALL STRUGGLE TO ELIMINATE THIS ARBITRARY CONTROL AND INFLUENCE. WE SHALL STRUGGLE FOR FULFILLMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS REVOLUTION, AND WE SHALL STRUGGLE FOR CREATION OF A STRONG NATIONAL ARMY, CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING THE GREAT OBJECTIVES OF THE REVOLUTION AND PEACE FOR EGYPT.

WHEN I HEAR A SPOKESMAN DECLARE THAT THIS IS A VICTORY FOR SOVIET INFLUENCE OR FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR EGYPT, I RECALL THE REMOTE PAST AND I SAY THAT THIS COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WHICH WE HAVE SIGNED WITHOUT CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS IS NOT A VICTORY FOR SOVIET OR FOREIGN INFLUENCE, BUT FRUSTRATES THE LONG PERIOD OF INFLUENCE WHICH DOMINATED AND CONTROLLED US.

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